United Nations S/2002/150

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 February 2002
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 5 February 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Turkish armed forces have embarked on yet another new series of operations involving armed aerial military aggression, committing the violations of Iraq's airspace indicated hereunder.

1. At 1028 hours on 15 January 2002 a Turkish formation consisting of two F-4 aircraft and two F-16 aircraft violated Iraq's airspace from the area of the Iraq-Iran-Turkey tripoint opposite the Kani Rash area. The aircraft overflew areas of Rawanduz to the north of Dokan lake.

2. Between 1020 and 1315 hours on 16 January 2002 there were three Turkish aerial violations in the area of the Iraq-Iran-Turkey tripoint opposite the Kani Rash area. The Turkish aircraft overflew the Rawanduz area and an area north of Dokan lake.

3. At 1235 hours on 17 January 2002 a Turkish formation consisting of two F-4 aircraft violated Iraq's airspace from the area of the Iraq-Iran-Turkey tripoint to the north of Dokan lake. The two aircraft returned to Turkish territory at 1245 hours.

4. On 21 January 2002 two Turkish formations violated Iraq's airspace. Their flight path covered the entire Rawanduz and Shaqlawah areas. The violations spanned 35 minutes, and:

(a) In the first, a Turkish formation consisting of two F-16 aircraft penetrated east of Baibo district at 1115 hours; and

(b) In the second, a Turkish formation consisting of two F-4 aircraft penetrated from the Kani Rash area at 1148 hours.

These new Turkish incursions into Iraq's airspace are part of the series of flagrant violations being committed by Turkish armed forces against the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq. They are associated with the facilities that Turkey provides for United States and British warplanes in the aggression they have been committing against Iraq since 1991, thereby violating its obligations under international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of good neighbourliness.

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The Government of the Republic of Iraq condemns the continuing violations of Iraq's airspace and territory in the north of the country by the Turkish armed forces, it affirms its full and legitimate right to defend itself, and it considers that Turkey bears full responsibility under international law for the consequences of its ongoing aggression, its violations of Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and airspace and its having exposed Iraq's security and safety to grave risks.

We hope that the United Nations will fulfil its responsibilities and that it will urge the Turkish Government to comply with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law by ceasing forthwith its military aggression and its blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs and by withholding the facilities it provides for the ongoing United States and British aggression against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdul Munim **Al-Kadhe**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.